

WAKEFIELD,

October 29th, 1869.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have the honor of addressing you as a candidate for the vacant office of Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

My claim for the office is that during my whole professional life—now nearly ten years—my principal object of study has been healthy and morbid anatomy. In support of this statement and in evidence of my endeavours to reduce the result of my labours to practice I have appended a few testimonials, selecting in preference those from men with whom I have been in more or less intimate relation. I have prefixed four to show that my studies were directed in these channels in my student days.

I also append a list of my published writings.

I am,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

LAWSON TAIT.

*To the Manager of the
Royal Infirmary,
Edinburgh.*



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TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

LAWSON TAIT,

L.R.C.S. &c.;

*Member of the Surgical Society of Ireland, of the Obstetrical Society of Dublin, and Hon. Member of the Hunterian Medical Society ;
Assistant Surgeon to the Clayton Hospital and Wakefield General Dispensary ;*

AUTHOR OF PAPERS :—“ON HYDRAMNIOS WITH ALBUMINURIA” *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1864 ;

“ON TEMPORARY METALLIC COMPRESSION OF ARTERIES” *Med. Times and Gaz.*, June, 1865, AND TRANSLATED IN THE *Prager Vierteljarschrift*, Jan. 1866 ;

“TREATMENT OF FRACTURE OF THE RADIUS AT THE STYLOID PROCESS BY MEANS OF GORDON’S SPLINT” (*Med. Times and Gazette*, Feb. 1866, AND REPRINTED IN *Braithwaite’s Retrospect* AND IN *Rankin’s Abstract*) ;

“PARAFFIN AS A MEANS OF TREATING FRACTURES” (*Med. Times and Gazette*, Nov. 1866) ;

“PAPERS ON ACUPRESSURE” (*Med. Times and Gazette*, March and Feb. 1866) ;

“NOTE ON PREPARATION JARS,” (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, June, 1867) ;

“COLLIS’S FRACTURE,” (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, June, 1867) ;

“A READY MEANS OF TAKING CASTS,” (*Medical Times and Gazette*, 1867) ;

“FRACTURE OF THE THIGH AND ITS TREATMENT BY CONTINUOUS EXTENSION,” (*Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*, Feb. 1868) ;

“THE PATHOLOGY OF CHOREA, AND ITS CONNECTION WITH PREGNANCY,” (*Dublin Quarterly Journal*, Feb. 1868) ;

“DISEASE OF THE MITRAL VALVE,” (*Medical Press and Circular*, May, 1868) ;

“NOTE ON METALBUMEN IN THE URINE,” (*Medical Times and Gazette*, 1868) ;

“FEMORAL ANEURISM, AND ITS SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT BY COMPRESSION,” (*Medical Times and Gazette*, 1868) ;

“ON SYPHILITIC DISEASE OF THE BRAIN, WITH PLUGGING OF THE ARTERIES,” (*Medical Times and Gazette*, Feb. 1869);

“ABNORMALITIES OF SEROUS MEMBRANES,” (*Dublin Quarterly Journal*, Feb. 1869);

“THE LAW OF NATURAL SELECTION IN MAN,” (*Dublin Quarterly Journal*, Feb. 1869);

“OEDEMA OF THE CONJUNCTIVA AS A SYMPTOM OF SURGICAL FEVER,” (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, March, 1869);

“LETTERS ON ACUPRESSION, TORSION, AND LIGATION,” (*Lancet, and Medical Times and Gazette*, 1868-9);

“THE MYOIDEMA OF PHTHISIS, being the Clinical Examination of nearly four hundred cases,” (1869, *an Extract read at the British Medical Association, at Leeds, under the title of “Idio-Muscular Contraction”*);

“FUNGOUS TUMOUR OF THE DURA MATER,” (*Medical Times and Gazette*, Sept. 1869);

“CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS,” (*Lancet*, 1869);

“REDUCTION OF CHRONIC INVERSION OF THE UTERUS,” (*read before the London Obstetrical Society, Lancet, August, 1869*);

“A NEW METHOD IN USING NEEDLES IN THE OPERATION FOR HARELIP,” (*Lancet, Oct. 1869*);

“NOTE ON THE FOOT AND MOUTH EXANTHEM,” (*Med. Times and Gazette*, Oct. 1869);

“ON PECULIAR TUMOURS FOUND ON THE GASTEROSTEUS TRACHURUS,” (*Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, 1869);

“ON THE CURE OF UTERINE EPILEPSY,” (*Dublin Quarterly Journal*, 1869).

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TESTIMONIALS.

I.—*From T. GRAINGER STEWART, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Lecturer on Pathology, Pathologist and Extra Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.*

25, Queen Street, Edinburgh,
October 5th, 1866.

I have much pleasure in certifying that I have known Mr. Lawson Tait for several years, and that I entertain a high opinion of his talents and acquirements. He has always been characterised by an eminently practical turn, and I am sure that his qualities are such as must one day win for him a distinguished position.

T. GRAINGER STEWART.

II.—*From ALEXANDER R. SIMPSON, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.F.P.S., Glasgow.*

1, Blythswood Square, Glasgow,
July 16th, 1866.

I have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Lawson Tait well, and can testify to his being a very able and highly accomplished practitioner. He has already had much hospital experience, and is eminently qualified for such an office as that for which he is now a candidate. Let me add, that the admirable papers he has already published prove him to be possessed of no ordinary talent and enthusiasm, and are a sure guarantee that in whatever sphere he may be placed, he will make the best use of his opportunities of doing good to his patients, and at the same time of advancing the science and art of medicine.

ALEXR. R. SIMPSON.

III.—*From ARTHUR GAMGEE, M.D., F.R.S.E., F.C.S., &c., late Senior President of the Royal Medical Society, Assistant to the Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh.*

University of Edinburgh,
November 19th, 1866.

I have great pleasure in expressing the high opinion which I entertain of the talents and acquirements of Mr. Lawson Tait.

Having been well acquainted with Mr. Tait for several years, I have constantly had occasion to observe the zeal with which he has pursued the study of his profession, and the great aptitude which he possesses for it. Having enjoyed remarkable opportunities for acquiring an extensive knowledge of surgery and diseases of women, Mr. Tait has so made use of them as to make himself admirably acquainted with all their practical details, and has accumulated a store of general professional learning which renders him admirably fitted for undertaking Hospital duties.

In addition, Mr. Tait is endowed with an originality of mind which has already led to his publishing some interesting surgical contributions. He is exceedingly well informed on general subjects not immediately connected with his profession, and he has ever shown himself to be a gentleman actuated by the most correct principles.

ARTHUR GAMGEE.

IV.—*From HENRY D. LITTLEJOHN, M.D., F.R.C.S., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, Surgeons' Hall; and Medical Officer of Health for the City of Edinburgh.*

40, York Place, Edinburgh,
11th August, 1863.

Mr. Lawson Tait acted as my class assistant during the last session, and assisted me in the examination of many cases of great medico-legal interest. I have had, therefore, ample opportunities of ascertaining his proficiency in Medicine and Surgery. Of their practical departments he has an extensive knowledge, and is well grounded in all subjects of medical study. He is an excellent anatoomist and has a good acquaintance with diseased appearances.

Indeed I have known but few students of his standing so well acquainted with healthy and morbid anatomy. He is neat-handed, and is expert in displaying preparations in the most recent methods of mounting. This last summer he had entire charge of my museum, and supplied me with upwards of fifty well-mounted preparations. Each preparation had a history bearing on some special department of my course, and Mr. Tait displayed much sagacity in the mounting, so as to make the preparations tell their own tales. This work he voluntarily undertook, over and above his regular duties as my class assistant.

I have no hesitation, therefore, in recommending him as assistant in any Medical School to the Lectureship of Anatomy or Pathology, or as the keeper of any Medical or Surgical Museum.

HENRY D. LITTLEJOHN.

V.—*From SAMUEL HEY, Esq., F.R.C.S., &c., Surgeon to the Leeds General Infirmary.*

From time to time I have had the pleasure of intercourse with Mr. Lawson Tait, and have also had the satisfaction of meeting him in consultation, and have formed the opinion that his Pathological views have been of great service to him, and have raised his success beyond that of ordinary men. The success in certain operations has been very great, and it has been freely recognised by many of his brethren.

SAMUEL HEY.

VI.—*From J. G. ATKINSON, M.D. Edinburgh, F.R.C.P., Senior Physician to the Clayton Hospital and Wakefield General Dispensary.*

WAKEFIELD, October 28th, 1869.

As Senior Physician to this hospital, it affords me much pleasure in giving a Testimonial to Mr. Lawson Tait; and in order

to do this within the compass of few words, I think it will be more to the point, and I shall be less likely to be led away by the emotions of friendship, if I merely state the following fact:—At the Annual Meeting of the Subscribers and Officers of this Hospital in July last, it was carried by a large majority, that in consequence of Mr. Lawson Tait's distinguished abilities the honour of being made "Assistaut-Surgeon" be conferred upon Mr. Tait. This is a distinction never conferred on any former House-Surgeon since the establishment of this Hospital some eighty years ago.

J. G. ATKINSON.

VII.—*From SAMUEL HOLDSWORTH, M.D., M.R.C.P., Physician to the Clayton Hospital and Wakefield General Dispensary: Mayor of Wakefield.*

WAKEFIELD, October 27th, 1869.

Mr. Lawson Tait has been House-Surgeon and Assistant-Surgeon to the Clayton Hospital and Wakefield General Dispensary for the last two years and a half. During the whole of that time he has paid especial attention to Surgical and Medical Pathology, has taken every opportunity of making post-mortem examinations, and has prepared many rare pathological preparations procured in this way. He has also devoted considerable attention to anatomical dissection. Having obtained a licence from the Secretary of State, he has established a dissecting room, where he has dissected with pupils under him (my own son for one) and performed the operations on the body. Mr. Tait is thoroughly well acquainted with the surgical and medical branches of his profession, especially the former; and during his residence in this town he has performed several times and with success, ovariotomy, lithotomy, staphyloraphy, and other important operations. He is possessed of great perseverance and industry, and has capabilities for attaining a high position in his profession. I wish him every success in the appointment he seeks.

SAMUEL HOLDSWORTH.

VIII.—*From T. PRIDGIN TEALE, Esq., M.A., M.B. Oxon., F.R.C.S.,
Surgeon to the Leeds General Infirmary.*

20, Park Row, Leeds.

October 26th, 1869.

Although not able to speak of my own knowledge of Mr. Lawson Tait's special qualifications as a teacher of Pathology, yet from his energetic and original pursuit of Surgery, his excellent general information and great literary tastes, I feel certain that he would do justice to the subject of Pathology if elected to the office he seeks.

T. PRIDGIN TEALE,

IX.—*From T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, M.A., M.D. Cantab.,
F.L.S., &c., Physician to the Leeds General Infirmary and
to the House of Recovery.*

38, PARK SQUARE, LEEDS.

October 28th, 1869.

To THE GOVERNORS OF THE EDINBURGH INFIRMARY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in expressing my sense of the fitness of Mr. Lawson Tait for the post of Pathologist to your Infirmary. During his stay at Wakefield he has shewn, as a Surgeon, very remarkable energy and skill, and has gained much distinction. As a Pathologist he is known to have done a good deal of work, but I have personally had little opportunity of seeing him in this capacity. On this point others no doubt will testify, while I speak of his important qualities of energy and mental vigour.

Mr. Lawson Tait has my best wishes for his success.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

X.—*From HENRY HORSFALL, Esq., Staff Surgeon to the West Riding Constabulary.*

WAKEFIELD, October 30th, 1869.

I have much pleasure in stating that for the last two years I have had the acquaintance of Mr. Lawson Tait, during which time I have witnessed his manipulations in some of the most important operations in Surgery; amongst which I may name Ovariotomy, Lithotomy, Staphyloraphy, excision of the elbow and knee joints, and the operation for strangulated hernia; and all these he performed in a most satisfactory manner.

I look upon Mr. Tait as a very scientific man, never losing an opportunity of acquiring knowledge, especially in morbid anatomy. During his stay here he has obtained a license for and conducted a dissecting room, and has taken an interest in teaching some of the surgeons' pupils, much to their advantage, prior to pursuing their studies at the various medical schools. Mr. Tait has also been of great service to me at post-mortem examinations. I consider him a most eligible candidate for the office of Pathologist to my "Alma Mater," the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

H. HORSFALL.

XI.—*From Wm. STATTER, Esq., F.R.C.S.*

Wakefield, Oct. 30th, 1869.

MY DEAR TAIT,

I have great pleasure in adding my testimony to your thorough competence to fill the office you seek at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

I can truly say, from personal observation of your skill in operating, and your general pathological acumen, without going into particular cases, that you are not unworthy to rank with the many bright names which Edinburgh has given to surgery.

I am, yours truly,

W. STATTER.

XII.—*From C. G. WHEELHOUSE, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Leeds General Infirmary, and Lecturer on Surgery at the Leeds School of Medicine.*

Leeds, Oct. 28th, 1869.

MY DEAR MR. TAIT,

It will give me great pleasure to hear that you succeed in obtaining the vacant post of Pathologist, as I consider you eminently qualified to fill such a position.

A skilful Surgeon and a thorough Pathologist yourself; endowed in an eminent degree with zeal in the pursuit of professional knowledge and with the desire to communicate that knowledge to others; industrious and untiring in your efforts to advance the science of our profession, you are, in my humble opinion, likely to prove a very valuable colleague to those who may be fortunate enough to secure your services, and an ornament to any school to which you may become attached.

C. G. WHEELHOUSE.

XIII.—*From T. WALKER, Senior Surgeon to the Clayton Hospital and Wakefield General Dispensary.*

The Elms, Wakefield, Oct. 30th, 1869.

I have great pleasure in stating that I have known Mr. Lawson Tait for more than two years, first as House-surgeon and afterwards as Assistant-Surgeon to the Clayton Hospital and Wakefield General Dispensary, where he has shown a great amount of skill and practical knowledge in the investigation of disease, more especially in the surgical department of the Institution, which comes more under my immediate attention.

I have had the opportunity of seeing him conduct several post-mortem examinations with extreme care and minuteness, and I know that he has given great attention to Pathological investigations. I feel confident that he would fill the office of Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh with credit to himself and entire satisfaction to every one concerned.

T. WALKER.

XIV.—*From THOMAS TAYLOR, Esq., Coroner for the West-Riding of Yorkshire and the Honour of Pontefract.*

November 1st, 1869.

Mr Lawson Tait having had frequent occasion to appear before me as a medical witness, I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the careful and skilful manner in which he has performed post-mortem examinations, and to the extensive knowledge he has invariably exhibited on pathological subjects. Mr Tait ever seems anxious for a chance of post-mortem investigation.

T. TAYLOR.

XV.—*From W. R. CASS, Esq., F.R.C.S. Exam., late Senior Surgeon to the Leeds Public Dispensary and to the House of Recovery.*

WAKEFIELD, October 29th, 1869.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the talents and capabilities of Mr. Lawson Tait. I have been on very intimate terms with Mr. Tait since I left Leeds to reside here, and have had frequent opportunities of seeing him perform capital operations, in which he evinced an unusual amount of skill and surgical knowledge.

I also consider Mr. Tait's knowledge of Pathology to be of a very superior order, as it embraces all the recent discoveries which medical science has made in that particular branch of the profession.

I have also heard Mr. Tait lecture on scientific subjects in a very eloquent and learned manner.

I am sure that should you elect him to the Pathologistship he is so anxious to obtain, you will have no cause to regret your choice.

W. R. CASS.

XVI.—*From G. F. NAYLOR, Esq., formerly Curator and Demonstrator under Dr. Knox, and Medical Officer of the West Riding and Hants Asylums.*

WAKEFIELD, October 29th, 1869.

Hearing that Mr. Tait is a candidate for the post of Pathologistship to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, I have great pleasure in

saying that I think he is eminently well qualified for the post which he seeks, having been myself at one period engaged in allied studies.

During his stay in Wakefield, Mr. Tait has earned a very distinguished and widely diffused reputation.

G. F. NAYLOR.

XVII.—*From JOHN WHITELEY, Esq., M.R.C.S.*

WAKEFIELD, Oct. 29th, 1869.

Gentlemen,—Mr. Lawson Tait informs me that he is a candidate for the post of Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony to his fitness for that responsible position.

I have had the pleasure of seeing much of Mr. Tait during his stay at Wakefield, and have observed the great interest he has taken in acquiring pathological knowledge. His experience in his dissecting room, and in the performance of numerous post-mortem examinations has afforded him ample scope for obtaining the information requisite for the office he solicits. I have, therefore, very great confidence in recommending him as an eligible candidate, and I feel sure that he will perform the duties in a creditable manner, and thereby uphold the high position which the Edinburgh School has attained.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours most obediently,

JOHN WHITELEY.

XVIII.—*From Wm. Wood, M.D. EDIN., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the West Riding House of Correction.*

Wakefield, October 29th, 1869.

Mr. Lawson Tait informs me that he is a candidate for the appointment of Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. I have had many opportunities of judging of Mr. Tait's fitness for the office, and have no hesitation in saying that I believe him to be in every way well qualified to undertake it.

I shall be glad to hear that his application has been successful.

WILLIAM WOOD.

XIX.—*From ROBERT HOLLINGS, Esq., M.R.C.S., &c.*

Grove House, Wakefield,

October 29th, 1869.

Mr. Lawson Tait informs me that he is a candidate for the office of Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and I have great pleasure in bearing my testimony to his being a very suitable person for such an appointment.

During the time he has been Assistant-Surgeon to the Clayton Hospital in this town, he has fulfilled his duties very satisfactorily, and has shown himself, by his numerous medical writings and the many Surgical operations he has performed here, to be a man of superior attainments and ability; I therefore consider him well calculated and eminently qualified to fulfil the duties of Pathologist to any large Infirmary. I am very confident he will do so, not only with great credit to himself, but also with perfect satisfaction to those on whom devolves the privilege of making the appointment.

ROBERT HOLLINGS.

XX.—*From J. W. GREENWOOD, Esq., M.R.C.S., &c.*

Ossett, October 29th, 1869.

I have pleasure in bearing unhesitating testimony not only to the manliness, courtesy, and kindness of Mr. Lawson Tait, but to his skill and ability as a Surgeon, and the great success which has followed his performance of capital operations.

JOHN W. GREENWOOD.

XXI.—*From THOMAS NUNNELEY, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Leeds General Infirmary, &c.*

Leeds, October 30th, 1869.

I have had the pleasure of personal acquaintance with Mr. Lawson Tait during his residence in Wakefield. He is a man of

great zeal in the study and practice of his profession, of large general knowledge, and well qualified to teach] to students that which he himself knows. I shall be glad to hear that he has succeeded in obtaining the appointment which he now seeks, believing as I do, that he is well qualified to discharge the duties of it with satisfaction to the students and credit to himself.

THOMAS NUNNELEY.

XXII.—*From JOHN A. NUNNELEY, Esq., M.B. London, Senior Surgeon to the Leeds Ophthalmic Hospital.*

LEEDS, Oct. 30th, 1869.

I have had the pleasure of Mr. Lawson Tait's acquaintance during the whole of the time he has been living at Wakefield, and from my own knowledge am able to speak in the very highest terms of the ability and zeal with which he has pursued his profession while there. I know that his opportunities have been ample, and his success is abundantly shewn by his published papers. Mr. Tait is qualified to take a high position, and I should regard as fortunate any Institution which obtains his services,

JOHN A. NUNNELEY.

XXIII.—*From BENJAMIN KEMP, Esq., M.R.C.S., &c.*

Wakefield, October 29th, 1869.

I have pleasure in stating that I have known Mr. Lawson Tait for upwards of two years, and in according my testimony to his ability as a Surgeon and Anatomist. He has frequently assisted me in post-mortem examinations, when he has proved himself to be an efficient Morbid Anatomist, by the readiness with which he has detected and demonstrated Pathological changes of structure.

For the past year he has been conducting a series of dissections in a room on my premises, one of my sons having been a pupil under him,—and from the assiduous and able manner in which Mr. Tait has conducted those studies I have no hesitation in declaring him to be a lover of the subject.

During his stay in Wakefield Mr. Tait has done most of the capital operations—innumerable minor ones—many of which I have witnessed, and I can testify to the skilful and finished style in which they have been performed.

As to his character as a medical man and a gentleman I can only state that his uniform readiness to assist, and his kindly deportment towards all with whom he has come in contact, merit the highest commendation.

BENJAMIN KEMP.

XXIV.—*From A. JESSOP, M.R.C.S., &c. 1829.*

Castleford, Oct. 30th, 1869.

MY DEAR TAIT,

By to-day's *British Medical Journal* I observe your name mentioned as one of the candidates for the appointment of Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

Allow me to wish you every success, for I am sure from what I have seen of you since your residence here in Yorkshire (having often met you in consultation &c.); your indefatigable thirst for professional knowledge, and your nice discrimination, fully satisfy me that you are in every way adapted for the wide field of usefulness you seek.

I quite feel that you would be an acquisition to the Infirmary.

Yours faithfully,

A. JESSOP.

